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1860 203

Letter Book

State of Mississippi

Department of State

Jackson January 11th 1860

To His Excellency the Governor of the State of New Jersey

Sir

I am directed by the Governor of this State, to acknowledge the receipt of 1 Copy of [illegible] Reports Vol 3d. transmitted to him by Your Excellency.

I have the honor to be
Your obedient servant
J. C. Campbell
Priv. Sec.

Executive Office
Jackson Mississippi
January 11th 1860

T. A. Hendricks Esqr

Sir

Enclosed you will find a list of swamp and overflowed lands selected for the State of Mississippi under Act of Congress passed September 28th 1830, by Mr Enoch V. Ramsay. Please acknowledge the receipt of the same, and give it your early attention

John J. Pettus

T. A. Hendricks Commissioner of General Land Office at Washington City D. C.

Executive Office
Jackson Miss Jan 27th 1860

Hon L. A. Hendricks Commissioner &c.

Yours of the 11th inst. transmitting to the State of Mississippi a certified copy of list No. 6 of swamp and overflowed lands in the District of lands subject to sale at Augusta under Act of Congress approved Sept 28th 1850, was this day received; and I respectfully request that you cause patents to issue conveying the fee simple title in said lands to the State of Mississippi.

Very Respectfully
John J. Pettus
Pr J. C. Campbell
Private Secretary

Executive Office Jackson Miss
January 27th 1860

Hon L. A. Hendricks
Commissioner &c
Washington City
D. C.

Sir;

I have this day caused to be corrected an error in Patent No. 4 of Swamp and Overflowed lands in the Augusta District, Mississippi as follows: the N W ¼ of S. E ¼ sec. 23. T 7 S. R 8 W. embraced in said patent and which was located on the 3d May 1849 per cert 61.214.

As requested, annotation of the above correction was this the 27th Jan 186 made in the margin of the patent.

Very Respectfully
John J. Pettus
Pr J. C. Campbell
Private Secretary

Executive Office
Jackson Miss: March 9th

Mr Zacharie
Sir

Your letter of the 6th inst was handed me by Col. R. W. James. The muskets you off to sell me for the State of Mississipp are not such as I wish to purchase and I decline entering into any contract in relation to them.

Yours &c
John J. Pettus

Executive Office Jackson Mi
January 27th 1860

Col. James
Dr Sir

Your note was hande me this morning. I am willing to take 4.000 muskets at $4 50/100 four dollars & fifty cents per piece, if they are manufactured at the United States Armory, inspected and approved by the proper officer of the United States, in good order, percussion locks. Send me a sample box on the receipt of which I will have them inspected & if found in my judgement suitable I will enter into a contract for the amoun above mentioned.

Yours Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Executive Office
Jackson Miss
March 26th 1860

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of 3 Copies of the Journals & 3 Copies of the Acts and Resolutions of the General Assembly of our State passed at its adjourned Session of 1859. Also 1 Copy Supreme Court Reports for the year 1859.

Very Respectfully
G. C. Campbell

Hon F. L. Villepigue
Tallahassee
Florida

Executive Office Jackson Miss
April 7th 1860

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Volumes 21st & 22nd Illinois Reports

G C Campbell
Private Secretary

Hon Ozias Hatch
Springfield
Illinois

Executive Office
Jackson M
April 7th

His Excellency
Gov. Wm H. Gist
Dear Sir

Your Letter of March 26 27th in regard to the
time & place of holding the Conventi
of the Southern States was received
after delay. While I entertain no
doubt that concert of action is
necessary to the safety of the slave
holding States and know of no mea
by which such concert can be secured
but by a Convention, yet I do not
regard the time or place of its meeting
of such vital importance as to
require any interested to incur m
inconvenience or expense to avoid
postponement or change. It is my
opinion that the Mississippi
Legislature named the first Monday
in June and Atlanta Georgia
more as suggestion to the other
States of a time and place when
and where the Convention might
be held, than from any great
reasons for holding it then and
there. As far as my power
may extend in the premises I
will co-operate with your Excellency
in bringing about any change which ma
be deemed necessary, and I doubt no
that those who may be present
will cheerfully acquiesce in such
change. I expect to meet the
Governor of Alabama in New Orle
in a few days and will write you o
my return to Jackson.

I have reasons for hoping that
nearly all the slave holding State
will meet us in Convention should
a Black Republican be elected in
November

Yours Respectfull
John J. Pett

Executive Office Jackson
May 12th 1860

His Excellency
Gov Wm H. Gist
Dear Sir

Having no information of the appointment of Delegates to the Convention at Atlanta from any other State, I have ~~deemed~~ advised the delegates from Mississippi of that fact and suggested to them the impropriety of going to Georgia under all the circumstances of the case. The proposed Council of Southern States might be as well held at Richmond with much better prospects of Unanimity

With high esteem for yourself and the State over which you preside

I am respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
John J. Pettus

State of Mississippi
Executive Office
Jackson Miss. Nov: 14th 1860

Sir

I am directed by the Governor of this State to acknowledge the receipt of one copy of the 15th Vol. Rod. Rept 1860 transmitted to him by yourself

Very Respectfully
J. C. Campbell
Priv: Sec:

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Executive Office
January 9th 1861

Hon L. Q. C. Lamar

Sir

Your resignation of your commission as Representative in Congress from first Congressional District of the State of Mississippi in the Congress of the United States of America, is this day received and accepted

Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Executive Office
Jackson Jany 11th 1861

Capt [illegible]

Sir

I am informed that the Silver Wave passed Memphis to day and it is believed that she has [illegible] arms on board for Louisiana or elsewhere. You are hereby commanded on ascertaining this fact to detain her until further orders. Use the guns sent you and such force as you may deem necessary from your Command to effect this object. By no means allow her to pass Vicksburg if she has on board men or munitions of war. Do nothing indiscreetly, neither allow the order of your Volunteers to place them beyond your entire control. Act firmly but prudently.

Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Executive Chamber
January 20th 1861

His Excellency
Gov. Moore

Sir

(proposing to the authorities) Mr Morse is now in Jackson proposing to the authorities of this State a plan for procuring Machinery to establish a Southern Armory. He will take with him a copy of an ordinance which I think will be passed by the Convention tomorrow.

I have appointed
Agent on the part of Mississippi to confer with you on the propriety of joining in the undertaking. Alabama and Georgia might aid, if consulted, in this matter. And if not, would it not be well for Louisiana and Mississippi to act at once and secure the necessary machinery.

Any power vested in me by the Convention, will be properly exercised to set the enterprise on foot in the speediest manner possible, and to this end I ask both the counsel and co operation of the State over which you preside. Should your Excellency approve this, would it not be well for the two States to appoint one Commissioner each with full powers to arrange the plan of operations and put it in operation at once.

Mr will explain more at length what has been done and said here and at Washington City on this subject. I write only to assure you that I cordially approve of the establishment of an armory, and will exert all the power I have for its prompt and speedy accomplishment.

I have learned this morning from a citizen of New Orleans that it is the wish of Louisiana that Mississippi should hold and defend the unfinished fort at Ship Island and that some heavy ordnance would soon be shipped from New Orleans for that purpose. This is the first intimation I have received of such a wish or of such proposed aid.

I would have taken possession of the fort long since if we had the means to furnish and defend it. But having no ordnance suitable for its defence, and the fort being in an unfinished condition I have permitted it to remain unoccupied and the work to progress under the ca tractors originally employed. An un[illegible] expedition has taken possession of the Fort, and if it is the wish of your State that we should hold it and if you can aid us with the necessary Ordnance, I will call the attention of the Convention to the matter as soon as I can be advised of these facts. Advise me as soon as possible in these premises.

Permit me to renew to you assurance that the cause of Louisiana shall be the cause of Mississippi, that the enemies of either shall be the enemy of both.

Very Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Executive Office
Jackson Miss. Jany 26th 1861

Col. Charles H. [illegible]

Sir

I have ordered Genl. Charles Clark to proceed to Pensacola immediately. You will report to him. [illegible] messenger [illegible] Harrison Esqr will explain [illegible] thus responding to your call for [illegible]. I regret that I did not learn at an earlier day [illegible] condition of affairs at Pensacola.

Very Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Executive Office
Jackson Miss. Jany 26th 1861

His Excellency
Gov. A. B. Moore

Sir

I have appointed Brigadier General Chas. Clark, as my agent to proceed to Montgomery to consult your Excellency in regard to the present position and future operations of the troops at Pensacola. I desire a full and free consultation that the State of Mississippi may be informed of your views and plans in regard to the Forts at Pensacola.

Very Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Executive Office
Jackson Miss: Jany 30th 1861

His Excellency
Govenor Perry
Sir

I have appointed Brigadier General Chas. Clark to proceed to Tallahassee to consult your Excellency in regard to the present position and future operations of the troops at Pensacola. I desire a full and free consultation that the State of Mississippi may be informed of your views and plans in regard to the Forts at Pensacola.

Very Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Executive Office
Jackson Miss: Feb 22d 1861

Col. McCabe
Sir

You will go at once to Ship Island - take an accurate account of all public property now there - cause to be sold all the property liable to waste or damage by time - such as provisions &c. Send the lead to Block McAfee & Co New Orleans to be shipped to Jackson and report your action in the premises to me as soon as possible.

Very Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Executive Office
Jackson Miss. March [illegible]

Hon. W. S. Barry
President of the Convention
Sir.

I would through you respectfully call the attention of the convention to the distressed condition of a large portion of the people of the central Counties of this State from Lake and Attala to the sea shore. The excessive drought of last summer ruined their crops, both corn and cotton, and a considerable number of the people of that district have not corn enough to enable them to live, and are without the means or credit to purchase bread.

Knowing that it is only necessary for these facts to be presented to the Convention to induce them to extend to the destitute the aid required I have deemed it my duty to ask an investigation of the matter, and if the facts are as I am informed, and I believe I regard them as sufficient to warrant me in invoking the full powers of the State to apply the remedy; and to effect that I would respectfully the following suggestions.

First that extraordinary powers be given to the Board of Police of such Counties as are destitute of corn, to use all County funds, school funds and &c which may be under their control, for the purchase of corn to be loaned to those who are unable to buy. Second that they be empowered to issue scrips bearing such rate of interest as will enable them to dispose of it for the amount of funds required. Third—That the State advance to to said Counties as a loan in treasury notes or money a sum sufficient to releave their distress and drive hunger from their doors. The proposition is not debatable, that all the power and resources of the State must be exhausted before Mississippians are permitted to starve.

I would ask leave further to represent through you to the Convention that arms, ammunition, tents, clothing &c were purchased in Mobile for Mississippi troops sent to Pensacola in January last which added to their other expenses exceeds by several thousand dollars the appropriation made by the Convention for their support.

A further appropriation of ~~fou~~ five thousand dollars will be necessary to the account of the Quarter Master General of State of Alabama.

(and the) The six twenty four pounder guns and the ammunition for the same, and a large portion of the other arms received by me from the State of Louisiana might be turned over to the Confederate States. Three thousand of the muskets will be required to arm the troops of Mississippi. A considerable number of them have already been distributed to Volunteer companies.

Very Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Executive Office
Jackson Miss
April 20th 1861

Sir

You are hereby notified that His Excellency John J. Pettus, Governor of the State of Mississippi, has this day appointed you Receiver of Public Monies at the Land Office at Paulding Mississippi.

Very Respectfully
J. C. Campbell
Private Secretary

Mr A. C. Deare
Paulding
Miss:

Executive Office Jackson Miss: April 20th 61

Sir

You are hereby notified that His Excellency John J. Pettus, Governor of the State of Mississippi, has this day appointed you Register of the Land Office at Paulding Mississippi.

Very Respectfully
James J. Campbell
Private Secy

Mr James M. Bradley
Paulding
Miss

Executive Office
Jackson Miss May 2d 1861

Dear Sir

I am authorized by the Governor to inform you that he has approved your Bond for the faith performance of the duties of Register of the Land Off at Paulding Mississippi

Very Respectfully
J. C. Campbell
Private Secty

Mr James M. Bradley Jr
Paulding
Mississippi

Executive Office
Jackson Miss May 2d 1861

Dear Sir

I am authorized by the Governor to inform you that he has approved your Bond for the faithful performance of the duties of Receiver of public monies at the Land Office at Paulding Mississippi.

Very Respectfully
J. C. Campbell
Private Secty

Hon O. C. Dease
Paulding
Miss.

Executive Office
Jackson Miss May 2d 1861

Sir

I am instructed by the Governor to inform you that he has approved your Bond for the faithful performance of the duties of Register of the Land Office at Columbus Mississi

Very Respectfully
J. C. Campbell
Priv: Sec:

Mr F. G. Baldwin
Columbus
Mississippi

Executive Office
Jackson Miss May 2d 1861

Sir

I am instructed by the Governor to inform you that he has approved your Bond for the faithful performance of the Duties of Receiver of Public Monies in the Land Office at Columbus Mississippi.

Very Respectfully
J. L. Campbell
Private Secretary

Mr Robert D. Haden
Columbus
Mississippi

Executive Office
Jackson Miss: May 10th 1861

Capt Hamer received my written permission of date 30th ult to rendezvous the Hamer Rifles with the consent of the officers and men of that company at or near Jackson. This permission which implied the rendezvous of the company at their own expense was only intended to give my assent so that the company might change the place of the drill ordered by the officers from Yazoo County to that of Hinds— The company having with the consent of officers and men made a rendezvous at Jackson where they have remained for the space of — days and my opinion being asked as to the legality of the action of the company— say that the act of the company being that of their own is in nowise illegal— that the company while here are subject to the orders of their officers as though in the County of Yazoo— and now suggest that the company be allowed such of them as may desire it to go to their homes on furlough subject to be reassembled at my order through the Major General

John J. Pettus

Executive Office
Jackson Miss May

Dear Sir
At the request of the Governor I send you the following inscription to be put upon Major General Vandorn Sword.

"Presented to Major Earl Vandorn, by the State of Mississippi, in testimony of her appreciation of the gallantry of her native Son, in many battles."

On the other side

"By order of the State of Mississippi February 8th 1860."

Very Respectfully
J. A. Campbell
Private Secy

Mr Zachariah
Gun Smith
~~Yazoo~~-Natchez
Miss:

Executive Office Jackson Miss June 28th 1861

His excellency
Gov T O Moore

Dr Sir The gun boats of the enemy, which now infest our sound and interupt the commerce between mobile and new Orleans might be driven from our waters, by arming such small steamers as have heretofore plied between mobile and new orleans, and such other vessels as alabama Mississippi and Louisiana Can take possession of and man for that purpose

I proposed that the three above named states take all the steamers and said vessels necessary, and become responsible for their use while in their possession and for all damages received by said boats, Arm and man them or turn them Over to Privateer Companies and thus prevent if possible the enemy from obtaining a foot hold on our shores or controlling the sound and lakes for our annoyance Large ships of war cannot approach our shores and I think we may Compell ~~them~~ their gun boats to keep a respectable distance by promptly using the means in our reach

Very Respectfully
John J. Pettus

Copy addressed to
Govs of Louisiana & Alabama

Executive Office Jack

His Excellency
Gov A B Moore
Montgomery Ala

Dr Sir yours to hand. I approve of your Suggestion of Consulting with some naval officer and would like for you to correspond with one in whom you have confidence I would be pleased to have a consultation with you & Gov Moor of La, either at Mobile or New Orleans at any time you may propose after the adjournment of the Legislature. I think there is more in this affair than the surface presents at this time, and we should prepare with all dispatch to meet a large force, I fear Genl Twiggs does not fully appriciate the intention of the enemy

Yours very Respectfully
John, J, Pettus